

Historic, Archive Document

Do not assume content reflects current
scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.

1
P6982

LIBRARY
OF THE
UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Class 1

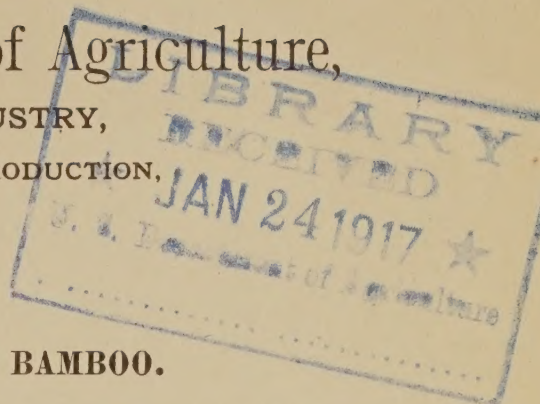
Book P6982

8-1577

1
P6982

United States Department of Agriculture,

BUREAU OF PLANT INDUSTRY,
FOREIGN SEED AND PLANT INTRODUCTION,
WASHINGTON, D. C.



CULTURAL DIRECTIONS FOR BAMBOO.

Bamboos, unlike cereals or forage plants, can not be expected to yield prompt returns, as they are essentially timber-producing plants, and this factor should be considered in choosing the location for a grove, as it should be permanent. A position protected from strong winds, which injure the young growing tops, and a well-drained soil are necessary. The quality of the wood is said to vary very much with the soil, but a rich, stiff loam, lightened with a mixture of sand, is the best. Occasional overflow will not injure the plants if set out on low mounds or ridges, but stagnant water will kill the rhizomes. The banks of small streams or canals or the deltas of rivers are good locations. In an arid climate with a moderate rainfall they will keep green with a small amount of irrigation.

Owing to the fact that bamboos seldom produce seeds, it is necessary to propagate the plants by division of the underground stems, or rhizomes. This is best done in the growing season, the plants being moved with a ball of earth. If the plants do not send up new shoots for several months after planting, it is likely that the rhizomes are dead, even though the top should remain green for some time. For propagating in winter, cuttings made of the rhizomes are dug, packed in slightly moistened sand, and set out in properly prepared ground in the spring.

The soil should be especially prepared the previous fall by double digging to a depth of at least 18 inches. If heavy, it should have had worked into it a good quantity of leaf mold or well-rotted manure. For a grove, plants should be set out at equal distances from each other, about 12 feet apart each way, and after planting it is important that the soil should be given a heavy mulch of straw or leaves, which should be maintained during the entire year. It is essential that as the new shoots spring up they be well shaded; as soon as a stand has been obtained the large plants will naturally shade the younger ones.

For the first three years, at least, all the shoots that appear should be allowed to grow, but when the plants are once well established only the larger shoots should be permitted to stand, the others being cut out as soon as they appear, thus throwing the strength of the plants into a few large culms.

No culms should be cut for timber purposes until they are at least four years old, as before this time the wood is not mature; then again they should not be left standing too long, as the wood becomes too brittle and loses its value; the forest also is benefited by the cutting out of the four-year-old stems.

JUNE 1, 1908.

U S D A
LIB

ADU
DU

